

# R12m facelift for presidential house

**Suthentira Govender**

---

MORE than R12-million will be ploughed into refurbishing the official presidential residence in Durban.

The Department of Public Works said yesterday that it was undertaking major renovations of the Dr JL Dube Presidential Residence to address storm damage as well as a wood-borer

infestation. The residence, which will be occupied by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his visits to the city, is a heritage building, which was first occupied in 1904 and has seven buildings within its grounds.

National public works spokesman Thami Mchunu said renovations to the historic residence had begun last month.

“Comprehensive investiga-

tions and feasibility studies had to be done for the project to be registered,” Mchunu said.

“Also, to ensure that the heritage aspect of the facility was not compromised, the heritage council in KwaZulu-Natal was approached for input and approval of the proposed repairs.”

The work is expected to take eight months to complete at a cost of R12.7-million. – TimesLIVE